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Over 40 Elected Prosecutors Denounce Attorney General Barr’s Baseless Rant Against Proven Criminal Justice Reforms Taking Hold in Cities Across the Country

Dozens of Prosecutors Condemn AG’s Attack as Unfounded and Dangerous Fear-Mongering from a Failed “Tough on Crime” Playbook

LOS ANGELES – Today 41 elected prosecutors issued a [joint statement](#) denouncing the recent remarks by Attorney General William Barr attacking local elected prosecutors who are implementing smarter criminal justice strategies grounded in evidence-based policies that lift people up, while prioritizing cases that cause communities real harm. The statement brings together the voices of local elected prosecutors and state Attorneys General from diverse jurisdictions around the nation and makes clear that a growing number of criminal justice leaders reject AG Barr’s dangerous and failed approach to criminal justice. Instead, these leaders are embracing research-backed policies that reduce incarceration, treat people with humanity and promote healthy and safe communities.

“In recent years, we’ve seen a growing number of elected prosecutors and law enforcement leaders turn away from ‘tough on crime’ policies – acknowledging they have done little more than fuel mass incarceration and fracture trust in our justice system,” said **Miriam Krinsky, Executive Director of [Fair and Just Prosecution](#)** and a former 15-year federal prosecutor. “These criminal justice leaders are choosing a new pathway that is data-driven and gaining bipartisan support, discrediting AG Barr’s fear-driven narrative not through words, but through the outcomes of smarter justice approaches that reduce incarceration and restore communities rather than tear them down.”

In recent remarks, Attorney General Barr aimed attacks at reform-minded prosecutors across the country who are driving new data-based approaches to criminal justice that have proven to be effective in fortifying community trust and promoting public safety. In their joint statement, the current and former prosecutors corrected the factual inaccuracies in Barr’s recent remarks and cautioned against a return to past failed approaches, noting:

We will not go back to the fear-driven ‘tough on crime’ era. We will not adhere to policies that failed to make our communities safe and punished poverty, mental illness or addiction— policies that filled prison beds and

made our country an international outlier in our rate of incarceration....
We will continue to implement solutions that are proven, focus our resources on solving serious crimes, and work to reduce our nation's bloated incarceration system. We will uphold the rule of law, and we will apply it fairly.

The joint statement outlines not only a vision for safety, but actual policies in place making communities safer than they have ever been. For example:

- In Chicago, where Kim Foxx has prioritized gun violence prosecutions, [homicides and shootings](#) are down for the third year in a row.
- In Baltimore, Marilyn Mosby is [addressing the city's high unsolved homicide rate](#) by putting more of her office's precious resources toward solving these cases and prioritizing crimes that put communities at risk, rather than arresting and prosecuting marijuana users.
- In Boston, Rachael Rollins is also [leading an initiative](#) to revisit hundreds of unsolved homicide cases, rather than spending time on prosecuting low level offenses that have done nothing more than propel racial disparities.

“My fellow reform minded prosecutors and I don't resort to fear, we deal in facts,” said **Ramsey County, Minnesota Chief Prosecutor John Choi**. “For too long, we've seen individuals locked up for offenses that amount to the criminalization of drug use, mental illness and simply being poor. This has not made us any safer, but has instead, time and time again, resulted in the fracturing of families, intergenerational cycles of incarceration, a destabilization of communities and a growing distrust of law enforcement. Public safety requires us to end failed practices and embrace smart justice approaches that heal and build communities.”

Read the statement [here](#), and for a full list of the 41 signatories, see below. For any questions about the statement or to speak to any of the signatories, please contact Miriam Krinsky at krinskym@krinsky.la or 818-416-5218.

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Fair and Just Prosecution is a national network of elected prosecutors working towards common-sense, compassionate criminal justice reforms. To learn more about FJP's work, visit <http://www.fairandjustprosecution.org/> or follow us on Facebook [@FairAndJustProsecution](#).

List of Signatories

Aramis Ayala, State Attorney, Ninth Judicial Circuit, Florida

Diana Becton, District Attorney, Contra Costa County, California

Wesley Bell, Prosecuting Attorney, St. Louis County, Missouri

Buta Biberaj, Commonwealth's Attorney, Loudoun County, Virginia

Sherry Boston, District Attorney, DeKalb County, Georgia
Chesa Boudin, District Attorney, City and County of San Francisco, California
Aisha Braveboy, State's Attorney, Prince George's County, Maryland
John Choi, County Attorney, Ramsey County, Minnesota
Scott Colom, District Attorney, Sixteenth Judicial District, Mississippi
John Creuzot, District Attorney, Dallas County, Texas
Satana Deberry, District Attorney, Durham County, North Carolina
Parisa Dehghani-Tafti, Commonwealth's Attorney, Arlington County and the City of Falls Church, Virginia
Thomas J. Donovan, Jr., Attorney General, Vermont
Michael Dougherty, District Attorney, Twentieth Judicial District, Colorado
Mark Dupree, District Attorney, Wyandotte County, Kansas
Keith Ellison, Attorney General, Minnesota
Kim Foxx, State's Attorney, Cook County, Illinois
Kim Gardner, Circuit Attorney, City of St. Louis, Missouri
Sarah F. George, State's Attorney, Chittenden County, Vermont
Joe Gonzales, District Attorney, Bexar County, Texas
Eric Gonzalez, District Attorney, Kings County, New York
Mark Gonzalez, District Attorney, Nueces County, Texas
Andrea Harrington, District Attorney, Berkshire County, Massachusetts
Peter Holmes, City Attorney, Seattle, Washington
Natasha Irving, District Attorney, Prosecutorial District Six, Maine
Leticia James, Attorney General, New York
Kathleen Jennings, Attorney General, Delaware
Justin F. Kollar, Prosecuting Attorney, County of Kaua'i, Hawai'i
Lawrence S. Krasner, District Attorney, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Beth McCann, District Attorney, Second Judicial District, Colorado
Stephanie Morales, Commonwealth's Attorney, Portsmouth, Virginia
Marilyn Mosby, State's Attorney, Baltimore City, Maryland
Joseph Platania, Commonwealth's Attorney, City of Charlottesville, Virginia
Karl Racine, Attorney General, District of Columbia
Rachael Rollins, District Attorney, Suffolk County, Massachusetts
Jeff Rosen, District Attorney, Santa Clara County, California
Marian Ryan, District Attorney, Middlesex County, Massachusetts
Dan Satterberg, Prosecuting Attorney, King County, Washington

Carol Siemon, Prosecuting Attorney, Ingham County, Michigan

David Sullivan, District Attorney, Northwestern District, Massachusetts

Andrew Warren, State Attorney, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Florida